

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 14 are pending.

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected.

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended without prejudice.

New Claims 22-38 have been added herein.

REMARKS

Applicant and its attorneys thank Examiner Laneau for the courtesy of the telephonic interview of October 5, 2006. As of the filing of this amendment and response, Applicant has not received an interview summary, and hence reserves the right for comment thereon.

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goodwin et al (US2003/022867A1) in view of McAfee et al (US 6,718,312).

Consistent with the interview in which the Examiner acknowledged allowable subject matter in previously cancelled Claim 3, without prejudice, and subject to Applicant's right to seek further prosecution of the previously claimed subject matter in this or a related application, Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 14 to recite subject matter originally recited in now cancelled Claim 3. The cited art of record clearly fails to teach or suggest in any combination, each of the features of present claims 1 and 14. Reconsideration and removal of this 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection is requested.

Applicant has also added new Claims 22-38 herein, which each ultimately depend from one of Claims 1 and 14. New Claims 22-38 find support throughout the specification and drawings, including Claims 2-13 and 15-21 as originally filed. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any questions or outstanding matters, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at his number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph R. Carvalko, Jr.', written over a horizontal line.

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